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Petunia Surprise For Mother's Day

As a Mother's Day surprise, the third graders of teacher, Mrs. Celestine Turner, planned to present each Mom with a blooming petunia from a hand decorated cup container. They planted seeds, and some of them sprouted but the results were so disappointing that SOMETHING had to be done before May 9. As you can see (above) each pupil has a bright pink petunia ready, plus original Mother's Day card. The plants came from the GBA Greenhouse, Spout Spring. Pupils include Earl Agee, Jr., James Beale, David Caldwell, Gregory Cheatham, Wm. Chenault, Kenneth Ensley, S. L. Ferguson, Charles Irvin, Jeffery Jamerson, Kevin Moore, Mark Paulette, Kenneth Shorter, Roger Webb, James Holmes, Phyllis Baker, Johnna Belter, Sandra Ferguson, Pam Guill, Sharon Guill, Vinnie Hubbard, Laurie McLean, Lori Mitchell, Lisa Moore, Alene Preston, Linda St. John, Pamela Schrock, Robin Spiggle, Irene Story and Denise Webb.

Pastor Speaks

THE VALUE OF A PERSON

Our motives in serving God are mighty important. Here, for example, is a man who says, "I intend to go to church, help my neighbor, give to charity, and be kind to the needy. I feel that God will love me because I do this." In this God becomes a taskmaster to be pleased.

Here's another person who says, "I truly don't deserve God's love. I'm unfaithful, short-tempered, and a bit self-centered. God has one a lot for me, however, and I intend to serve Him faithfully."

The first man may end up with an idea of a God whom he tries very hard to please, but whom he can never placate. The second person realizes his own unworthiness and his own shortcomings. He still is assured of God's love, rejoices in it, and serves God out of gratitude. The motive in the first case is that of fear. The motive in the second case is that of gratitude. Which motive is proper?

The Bible teaches that the second motivation for serving God is the only one that is true. In Romans 8:35-39 Paul in effect, "Nothing is going to be able to separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus." On the basis of that matchless description of God's love, Paul says in Romans 12:2, "I beg of you therefore, brethren, because of God's mercies to you, that you serve him."

God loves you. That's a fact. Because of his love for you, you are to serve him out of gratitude with thankfulness and with joy.

When this writer was a small boy, his family lived in an apartment building in which one of the other dwelling families was a childless, middle-aged couple. One Christmas I attempted to make extra spending money by selling fireworks during the Christmas season. The husband of the family approached me one day with the explanation that he wanted to purchase some Roman candles, sparklers, and other fireworks to give to a young friend of his. I immediately filled up a big with delightful fireworks, many of which I wanted for myself. You can imagine my surprise when on Christmas Day the big of fireworks which I sold was placed beneath my Christmas tree. The gratitude that I felt for the family then is still with me today, and I remember with great appreciation of each other, we must never forget either of them. Without the remembrance of our unworthiness, the knowledge of God's glorious love becomes a cheap and common thing. Without the reality of His grace, the fact of our sinfulness becomes a burden too heavy to bear.

We see both of these elements combined in the message to Hosea:

When Israel was a child, I loved him
. . . I took them up in my arms.
I led them with cords of compassion
. . . I bent down to them and fed them. (Hosea 11: 1-8)

The More I Called

There, of course, is also the theme of man's unworthiness:

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols. (11:2)

This is not so much the condemnation of an angry judge as it is the cry of a rejected father. These are not mere criminals, but rebellious, errant children. The injury involved here is not concern for a broken law, but the pain of a broken relationship:

How can I give you up, O Ephraim!
How can I hand you over, O Israel!

This is difficult to understand for man often gives love only upon certain conditions. 'I will love you if you will be loveable," is the basis of much human affection. Often this is only the reverse of a conditional love: Do this — "get good grades," "buy me a car," "do what I want," etc. — and then I will love you.

What God gives to his children, however, is not a proposition, a deal, a promise of something to come, but the declaration of something which already exists: God loves you now, as you are! It is the knowledge of this unconditional love from which there comes the power to change and become what he desires us to be.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Lesson for May 16, 1971

Background Scripture: Hosea 11; 14. Devotional Reading: Romans 8:31-39.

The prophecies of Amos and Hosea were alike in that:

—Both accused Israel of breaking her covenant with the Lord.

—Both condemned the people's indifference to the injustice festering within their land.

—Both condemned the substitution of insincere worship for the practice of righteousness.

—Both decried the growth of self-indulgence as a way of life.

—Both attacked the idolitry which the Israelites had learned from their neighbors.

—Both proclaimed suffering and destruction for Israel unless the people would repent and return to God.

But Amos and Hosea were different in that while Amos was a prophet who spoke solely of the judgment of God, Hosea also spoke of God's persistent and compassionate love.

The Love of a Father

The difference, of course, was largely the result of Hosea's own experience with Gomer, his wife. Through this experience Hosea had come to a deeper understanding of God's nature. In the hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," by Elizabeth C. Clephane, we sing:

And from my smitten heart with tears,
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of His glorious love,
And my own unworthiness.

These two wonders, each pulling in a different direction, keep following us throughout the Bible. Though they seem contradictory this simple act of kindness to a small boy.

God assures his love to the wanderer, the hard-hearted, the self-centered, the discouraged, and the weak. Because of the assurance of this love, we are to serve Him with gratitude, joy, delight and thanksgiving.

Dr. Thomas D.Lea, Pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va. 24522

Chestnut Grove

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. and Katherine Ellen visited Mrs. Katherine Carson at Spout Spring Friday night and Mrs. and Mrs. Edward T. Cook at Prospect Saturday night.

Ernest Cook of Fork Union spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Senger were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Flynn of Crewe.

Week end visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Forbes were Mr. and Mrs. John Meek and family of Virginia Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metcalfe, Bobby and Mary Ann spent the week end with her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook. Mrs. W. T. Cook accompanied them to the Becentennial Celebration at Buckingham Baptist Church Sunday.

Sunday guests in the W. T. Cook Home were Wayne Cook and Wendy Hoyle of Lynchburg Mr. and Mrs. William L. Carter Mike and Janice of Farmville, Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Cooke, Kenneth and Randy of Prospect and the Rev. Robert E. Johnson of Richmond.

Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond G. Barr were Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. Duty, Karla Lea, Ray, Jr. of Andersonville, Mrs. Billy Pace of Richmond and Joe Barr of Farmville.

Mrs. Danny Sink and children are spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Edware Senger and Dale were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Senger at Crewe and also visited Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pope in Crewe.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. of Appomattox.

Visitors of the Harris Sunday Mrs. Floyd Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles, Parke spent Sunday with Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. and girls were Rice Sexy Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. were Sunday Mrs. Gil Pro

Visiting Mr. Huskey of Dil Mr. and Mrs.

Sunday supp and Mrs. Kel ley of Buena K. M. Beasley erine Ellen of

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Gifts For Adopted 'Grandmother'

Homemakers of Appomattox have adopted Annie ...ey as a "grandmother" from Lynchburg Training ...ol. She was a recent honoree' at a party and received ... gifts. Young Homemakers locally are observing the ... Young Homemakers Week (May 9-15). Besides ... this week they have, during the year, visited ... Training School, sold kitchen and household ... and conducted a housing exhibit workshop. Emphasis ... year is "Wise Use of the Family Income for Family ...

COUNTY LINE

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash and Yvonne were dinner guests Sunday of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Layne and Missy of Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Mullins and Paul had their children and grandchildren for dinner Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goggin and girls spent Sunday in Richmond with Mrs. Goggins parents Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mayberry.

Mr. Herman Guill is now in the Memorial Hospital. We hope he'll soon be better.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mann and son and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann and boys were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mann and Ryland last Tuesday night.

Mr. Will Mann has returned to his home after spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mann.

Mr. Carroll Mann visited Mrs. Henry Mann Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash and Yvonne visited Mr. and

Young Homemakers' Week

It's Young Homemakers of Virginia Week (May 9-15) and these Appomattox County members are making the week with a number of activities: attending church with their families, TV and radio broadcasts, poster exhibits, a banquet and the contribution of useful items to Lynchburg Training School, Officers (above, from left): Lucille Ferrell secy.; Jeanette Drinkard, treas. and reporter; Helen Phelps, vice-president; Merilyn Carroll, historian and chaplain; Madeline Thomas, advisor; Helen Moore, president.

Mrs. Billy Reynolds and Wayne of Spout Spring Sunday night.

Several from this community attended the Golden Wedding anniversary on Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jourden at the Sherwille Community Center. We wish this fine couple many more years of happiness together.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Martin of Appomattox visited Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Nash Saturday night.

Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Nash on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. George Nash and family, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann and boys, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nash, Mr. Loyd Nash and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Howard and son.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nash and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Mayberry Sunday evening.

Want Ads
GET RESULTS

T. D. Evans Honored By AEA

The Appomattox County Education Association meeting Thursday, May 6 at 3:30 p.m. at the Intermediate School, presented T. DeWitt Evans with a certificate "for outstanding service to public education" during his more than twenty years as school board member and chairman. Mr. Evans (3rd from left) resigned his position in June, 1970 because of the "conflict of interest" statute passed by the Va. General Assembly (Mrs. Evans is an instructor in the public school system). Mrs. Hezetine Foster (above) is the newly installed president of AEA. Standing beside her is R. B. Carter, given his past president's pin at the meeting and (at far right), John E. McLean, outgoing president. New officers of the AEA, besides Mrs. Foster are William Perrow, vice-president; Mrs. G. H. Jamerson, secy. and Mrs. Nancy Dickerson, treas.

ASCS REPORT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

Careful Choice Of Farm Set-Aside Acres Advised

Appomattox County farmers enrolled in the feed grain, wheat programs are being reminded that the acreage set-aside under each program should be as productive as the acreage used to produce the crop.

J. P. Alvis, Jr., Chairman of the Appomattox County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee, suggested that producers check with the county ASCS office as soon as possible if they have any doubt about their proposed set-aside acreage meeting the qualifications.

The Chairman pointed out that at the time producers come in to the County Office to certify their set-aside acreage, they must specify precisely where the set - aside acreage is located.

After a producer has certified, if a mistake is found in his set-aside acreage he could lose some or all of his farm program payment.

"A farmer who is not quite sure whether his set - aside meets all requirements would be well advised to check with the County ASCS Office ahead of time. Also, he can request measurement service, which, if followed, will give him a guarantee that he has enough set-aside acreage. Measurement service is offered by the County ASCS Office at cost," Mr. Alvis said.

Producers in the voluntary feed grain and wheat programs for 1971 set aside a percentage of their land to conserving uses, and will also maintain their farm's conserving base acreage. On the rest of their acreage they may plant as much feed grain or wheat, or other crop they choose, rice, extra long staple cotton, and sugarcane, which may be planted only on farms with allotments for these crops.

With Memorial Day approaching, the Appomattox Unit of the American Cancer Society urges thoughtful support of the Society's Memorial Program.

Making a contribution to the Memorial Fund is a fitting and practical way to help save the living and commemorate a loved one who has died of cancer or other cause. Remember—"Give — That Others May Live."

For further information call Mrs. Mary Alma Hudson, treasurer, Appomattox Unit of the American Cancer Society, 352-7121.

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